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--The present application claims benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional
Patent Application No. 60/131,726, filed on April 30, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~2, 3, 5, and 6~~. Please amend claims 1 and 4 as
follows:

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1. (Once Amended) A method for identifying field resistance of a rice
plant to rice blast, the method comprising the steps of:
extracting genomic DNA from the rice plant; and
detecting the presence or absence of the DNA marker G271 in the DNA
by RFLP or CAPS analysis, thereby determining the presence or absence of field
resistance based on the presence or absence of the DNA marker G271.

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4. (Once Amended) A method for breeding a rice variety having field
resistance to rice blast, the method comprising the steps of:
crossing a first rice variety having field resistance to rice blast with a
second rice variety lacking the field resistance to rice blast so as to obtain first generation
rice varieties;
extracting genomic DNA from each of the first generation rice varieties or
progeny thereof;
detecting the presence of the DNA marker G271 in the DNA by RFLP or
CAPS analysis, thereby determining the presence or absence of field resistance based on
the presence or absence of the DNA marker G271; and
selecting an individual having field resistance.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows: